



WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1953.

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TO:-

The Chairman and Councillors of the Wimborne and Cranborne
Rural District:-

I have the honour to submit for your information and
consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary
circumstances of the Rural District. The Report is presented as
follows:-

- A. Vital Statistics.
- B. General provisions of Health Service in the Area.
- C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area:-
 - 1. Water
 - 2. Sewerage
 - 3. Dry Refuse and Rodent Control.
- D. Factories and Workshops
- E. Housing
- F. Inspection and Supervision of Food
- G. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman
and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and
consideration. I have much appreciated the help and co-operation
given to me by the staff of the Public Health Department, officials in
other departments, and by my professional colleagues in practice in
the area.

J.B.M. Mayes.

JULY, 1954.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:-

Councillor T.H. Sutton, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:-

Councillor H.S. Craven

COUNCILLORS:-

C.W. Brewer

Revd. W.R. Buckett

Major V.G. Cole

W.S. Cornick

Lady Lettice Ashley-Cooper

L.B. Gauntlett

E.C.V. Dibben

E. Haskell

F.J. Harper

P. Hibberd

G. Haskell

Mrs. L.M. Hopper

E.S.P. Hooper

A.J. Maton

A.E. Jolliffe

F. Morris

R. Parke

C.J. Pattle

E.H. Pratt

Col, T.S. Rendall

W.R. Ricketts

F.C. Rowe

R.S. Rowe

Major W.N. Seymour

J.C. Sheasby

J.C. Shearing

F. Smith

Mrs. R.D.N. Somerset

B.T. Soppit

C.R. Stone

D.C. Trehane

Col. W.E. Vaudrey

R.C. Tubbs

Col. P.J.K. Warren

G.H. Wakefield

Revd. A.W. Williams.

A.H. White.

W.L. Young.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.B.M. Mayes, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W.R. Chick. M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

D.C. Mulley. M.S.I.A.

SECTION A
GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of district.....	80,868 acres
Population as estimated 30th June 1953.....	21, 690
Total number of inhabited houses (approximate).....	7, 200
Rateable value at 1st April, 1953.....	£117, 729
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£469.18.4.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR
YEAR - 1953
(As supplied by Registrar General)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total registered.....	153	156	309
Legitimate.....	148	147	295
Illegitimate.....	5	9	14
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>			
Total registered.....	4	3	7
Legitimate.....	3	3	6
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1
<u>DEATHS</u>			
Total registered.....	143	133	276
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total registered.....	3	3	6
Legitimate.....	3	3	6
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total registered.....	2	2	4
Legitimate.....	2	2	4

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Wimborne and Cranborne
Rural District England
and Wales

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	14.24	15.5
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	16.53	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths).....	22.15	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	12.72	11.4
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	9.54	
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.....	19.47	26.8

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING
1953.
(Supplied by the Registrar-
General)

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach.....	2	5	7
Malignant Neoplasm - lung.....	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm - breast.....	0	4	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms.....	18	9	27
Diabetes.....	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	16	28	44
Coronary disease.....	30	14	44
Hypertension with Heart disease.....	3	5	8
Other heart diseases.....	20	22	42
Other circulatory diseases.....	13	14	27
Influenza.....	2	1	3
Pneumonia.....	5	2	7
Bronchitis.....	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	2	0	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	0	2
Nephritis or nephrosis.....	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	3	0	3
Congenital malformation.....	1	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	0	1
All other accidents.....	2	3	5
Suicide.....	0	1	1
All other diseases.....	15	17	32

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

In 1953, 309 children were born compared with 280 in 1952, 310 in 1951. 7 Stillbirths were recorded in 1953 compared with 6 in 1952.

The crude birth rate was 14.24 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the comparability factor of 1.16, the standardised birth rate was 16.53. This figure compares favourably with the figure 15.5 for England and Wales.

DEATHS

276 persons died in 1953 compared with 273 the previous year, of these 273, 143 men, 133 women, 182 persons were over 70 years of age. The crude death rate was 12.72 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the Comparability Factor of 0.75, the standardised death rate was 9.54.

This figure compares favourably with the figure 11.4 for England and Wales.

The Comparability Factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out the differences of age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enables more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in other areas.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, scarlet fever, meningococcal infections, nor from poliomyelitis. There were no maternal deaths.

SECTION B
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service of the District is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating from the Civic Centre, Wimborne, and from Ferndown. A day and night service is maintained.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

The Staff of the Public Health Laboratories at Dorchester and Boscombe have given the district very generous service. They undertake the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases or suspected carriers of any infectious disease, and the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream etc.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre once a week in Wimborne, twice a month in Ferndown and Verwood, and once a month in Sixpenny Handley.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic twice a month in Wimborne.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

A Home Help Service is provided by the Dorset County Council and has continued to give good service in the district.

SECTION C
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The Bournemouth and District Water Company are the statutory water undertakers for the parishes of Colehill, Hampreston, West Parley and part of Pamphill: all developed parts of these parishes have a piped water supply.

The Borough of Poole is the statutory water undertaker for Corfe Mullen, Shapwick and Sturminster Marshall. Corfe Mullen is adequately supplied with piped water with the exception of the Mill Street area.

The Rural District Council has developed a new source of supply for housing purposes at Shapwick and additional mains were laid by the Water Undertakers to afford a piped water to the majority of the dwelling-houses in the village.

The Borough of Poole is developing a new source of supply at Sturminster Marshall and when complete this village will have main water.

Main laying between Cranborne and Alderholt was completed at the end of the year, enabling all water required for the villages of Cranborne, Edmondsham and Alderholt to be taken from the Council's own deep borehole at Cranborne.

At Verwood, small extensions of mains have been laid to meet new housing needs. The yield from the springs at Boveridge Heath, Verwood, enabled the bulk supply of water taken from the mains

of the West Hants Water Company at Three Cross to be kept within reasonable limits for the third year in succession.

The work on the installation of pumping equipment, main laying and the construction of the new reservoir at Crichel Down has progressed. In October a bulk supply of water was afforded to the parishes of Long and Moor Crichel. This enabled the Crichel Estate to abandon the use of their unsatisfactory source at Moor Crichel. Mains have been laid in Long Crichel, Moor Crichel, Chalbury, Horton and Part of Sixpenny Handley, and it is anticipated that piped water will be available or additional water supplied to these parishes early in 1954.

At Verwood, 660 properties are supplied with piped water, 132 at Cranborne, 190 at Alderholt and 25 at Edmondsham. All houses have internal supply with the exception of a few temporary structures at Verwood which are supplied by standpipes.

The approximate population with a piped water supply is 18,000. 3,500 are still dependant on shallow wells or stored rainwater.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS OF SAMPLES TAKEN FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SUPPLIES

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>PRIVATE</u>				<u>PUBLIC</u>			
	1.	2.	3.	4.	1.	2.	3.	4.
Alderholt	2				10			
Cranborne	3			4	9			
Crichel	6		2	1				
Corfe Mullen			1	4	7			
Colehill	1			2	6			
Chalbury				1				
Gussage St. Michaels	11		1					
Hampreston	1	1	2	2	2			
Horton				3				
Hinton Martell	3	3	4	1				
Holt	10		2	3				
Sturminster Marshall	11	2	4	3	9			
Sixpenny Handley	10	1						
Shapwick.				2				
Verwood	1			1	12			
Witchampton.	12	1	4	4				
Edmondsham	1			1				
Hinton Parva	1			3				
Gussage All Saints	2		1	8				
Pamphill		1						
Wimborne St. Giles	9	1	6	4				

The following parishes have no main water supply:-
Chalbury, Gussage St. Michaels, Hinton Martell, Horton,
Sixpenny Handley, Woodlands, Holt, Shapwick and Woodyates.

Explanation of the standards and classification of water. Based on presumptive findings.

Non-chlorinated piped supplies. Presumptive coli-aerogenes count per 100 ml

Class 1 - Highly satisfactory - less than 1.
Class 2 - Satisfactory - 1 - 2
Class 3 - Suspicious. - 3 - 10
Class 4 - Unsatisfactory - greater than 10

Throughout the year 50 per cent of samples should fall into Class 1; 80 per cent should not fall below Class 2; and the remainder should not fall below Class 3.

In chlorinated piped supplies the water should fall into Class 1.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Progress in making connections to the sewers at Cranborne continues to be extremely slow. Much of the pollution in the river bed still remains and will continue to do so until all the houses in and around the Square have connection to the sewer.

Conditions in the West Moors, Ferndown and West Parley areas are still giving rise to complaint. The increasing numbers of houses being built in this part of the Rural District, can only accentuate difficulties which have existed for years past, and for which the only real remedy is a proper scheme of sewers and sewage disposal.

SCAVENGING

All new properties have been served. Unfortunately owing to insufficient labour and transport, not enough time has been given to covering of the tips.

It is considered necessary that additional labour and transport be made available for this service and it is hoped this provision will be made in next year's estimates.

The demand for waste paper has been negligible and none has been sold.

CLEANSING SERVICE

The one vehicle has been working to full capacity throughout the year and the increasing number of properties make it imperative that a further vehicle be obtained. As an interim measure a dual purpose vehicle could be bought with refuse collection bed and cesspool emptying body. A vehicle of this type could be used until such time as there is a full-time demand by one or other service, then an additional chassis could be acquired and the spare body mounted thereon.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

No progress has been made in the provision of conveniences. The development in the Ferndown area may render it necessary for the Council to acquire a suitable site in anticipation of the provision of buildings at a future date when main drainage is available.

MORTUARY

Minor repairs have been carried out to a building at Kingston Lacy Camp to render it suitable for use. A small quantity of equipment for the purpose has been obtained.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

One owner of a Pet Shop and two persons dealing in goldfish and other aquatic stock are registered under the above Act.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Two upholsterers' premises are registered under the above Act.

RODENT CONTROL

No serious infestations have come to light during the year and the Rodent Operator has continued to deal with this nuisance by inspections and action on complaint.

<u>RAT INFESTATION</u>	<u>Council Premises</u>	<u>Agricultural Premises.</u>	<u>Private Premises.</u>	<u>Business Premises.</u>
Total number of visits made by staff.....	14	20	1446	300
Total number of premises inspected:-				
a. on complaint.....	4	-	110	20
b. on survey.....	-	20	1336	310
Total number of premises found infested.....)	4	-	110	10
a. on complaint.....)				
b. on survey.....	2	-	200	30
Number of premises treated.	2	10	131	36
Number of premises cleared.	1	8	111	20
Number of premises re-treated and cleared.....	-	4	20	6
Number of pre-baits laid...	700	282	3395	1140
Number of poison baits laid.	20	10	103	30
Number of post-baits laid...	80	60	150	100
Number of instances where other methods used (Oatmeal varfarin).....			900	160
Estimated number of rats destroyed.....	300	30	2000	1000
Number of bodies of rats recovered.....	50	10	1200	500
<u>MICE</u>				
Number of complaints received.	-	-	14	10
Number of premises treated....	-	-	14	10
Number of premises cleared....	-	-	12	8

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 (Amendment Act) 1951 Removal of persons in need of care and attention.

No action has been necessary under the Act.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

Twelve dairies are registered in the area:-

Licences issued:-

Dealer's Licence.....	Tuberculin Tested.....	9
	Pasteurised.....	8
<u>Supplementary Licence</u>	Tuberculin Tested.....	5
	Pasteurised.....	5

SECTION D

Number of factories registered in the district..... 87
Number of inspections made during the year..... 60

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The Factories Act, 1937 - Part One of the Act

<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	20	7
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.....	67	53
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).....	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.....	87	60

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M Inspector</u>
1. Want of cleanliness.....	4	4	-
2. Sanitary conveniences			
(a) insufficient.....	-	1	1
(b) unsuitable or defective -	-	1	1
3. Other offences against the A ct.....	4	4	-

OUTWORKERS

There were 68 outworkers employed during 1953. No infectious disease occurred during the year in any of the premises where outworkers were employed.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of camping sites in the area covering 155 caravans is 5.

The number of licences issued in 1953 to station moveable dwellings was 106

Although the housing position is much easier, there has been no major reduction in the number of sites permanently occupied. With one exception, the licenced sites cater for permanent residents with a few stands for holiday makers.

The site owners have shown willingness to improve their sites and provide amenities, for financial reasons progress is slow in some cases. One new site has been licenced during the year for 24 caravans. It has been laid out entirely in accordance with the suggestions of the Department and is very well maintained.

SECTION E
HOUSING

During 1953 a detailed survey was made of 45 dwellings which were classified as follows:-

Category 1 (houses reasonably fit in all respects).....	14
Category 2 (houses needing minor repairs).....	6
Category 3 (houses needing major repairs).....	13
Category 5 (houses not repairable at reasonable cost).....	12

A revisions has been made of the survey figures to exclude demolished properties and to re-classify those found on re-inspection to have been repaired or improved.

2,075 existing dwellings have now been classified as follows:-

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>Category</u>				<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
	1.	2.	3.	5.			
Alderholt.	45	42	15	12		114	C
Chalbury	-	2	2	1		5	
Colehill	323	146	48	60		577	C
Corfe Mullen	94	41	33	9		177	
Cranborne	29	64	17	13		123	C
Edmondsham	4	24	3	2	1	34	C
Gussage All Sts	1	1	7	5	2	16	
Gussage St Michael	4	12	12	3	3	34	C
Hampreston	19	15	12	16		62	
Hinton Martell	1	2	3			6	
Hinton Parva	-	1	1	-		2	
Holt	2	7	7	1		17	
Horton	5	12	5	43		65	C
Long Crichel	-	-	-	1		1	
Moor Crichel	-	1	2	-		3	
Pamphill	50	27	17	51		145	C
Pentridge	13	21	14	6	2	56	C
Shapwick	4	8	14	36		62	C
Sixpenny Handley	56	38	39	40	1	174	C
Sturm. Marshall	75	55	26	19		175	
Verwood	21	6	4	8		39	
West Parley	13	21	9	5		48	
Winborne St. G.	3	20	39	8	1	71	C
Witchampton	2	3	3	4		12	
Woodlands	5	8	16	26	2	57	C
Total	769	577	348	369	12	2075	"C" parish survey completed.

Details of the Government's policy for improving housing was published in the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Bill late in the year. This was accompanied by a booklet entitled "The Next Step" which set out the proposals in the Bill very clearly.

If the Bill receives approval it will entail a considerable amount of time being spent on housing matters. The first step will be to obtain an up to date picture of housing conditions in the district in order that the Council's housing programme may be submitted to the Ministry within the required period of twelve months.

Housing Acts 1936 - 1949
Statutory Action

Notices of time and place served.....	7
Demolition orders or closing orders made.....	1
Undertakings given re future use.....	8
Undertakings given to repair.....	1
Repairs carried out in accordance with undertakings	
(a) given in 1953.....	Nil
(b) given prior to 1953.....	4
Premises demolished	
(a) by owner.....	2
(b) by Council.....	Nil

Informal Action

Houses repaired after informal action.....	23
--	----

Improvement Grants

18 informal applications have been made for grant aid. In each case the property has been inspected and the owner advised of the requirements to be met. Many enquiries have been made concerning the grant (during the latter part of the year), it appears that the public are becoming aware of the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949.

Number of formal applications	9
Number of approvals.....	6
Number of properties to be improved.....	7
Number of applications provisionally approved.....	2

SECTION F
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The Sanitary Inspectors and Sampling Officers of the County Council have taken routine samples of milk, either produced or distributed in the area.

A summary is given below:-

Alderholt

10 samples taken.	2 pasteurised	Both satisfactory
	8 non-designated	6 satisfactory,
		2 unsatisfactory

Colehill

7 samples taken	6 pasteurised	
	1 T.T.	All satisfactory

Corfe Mullen

2 samples taken	2 pasteurised	Both satisfactory
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Cranborne

4 samples taken	2 T.T.	1 satisfactory)
	2 non-designated	1 unsatisfactory)
		both satisfactory

Edmondsham

5 samples taken	2 non designated	2 satisfactory
	3 T.T.	2 satisfactory, one
		unsatisfactory

Gussage All Saints

4 samples taken.	3 T.T.	
	1 accredited.	All satisfactory

Hampreston

39 samples taken	32 pasteurised	30 satisfactory)
	5 non designated)	2 unsatisfactory)
	2 " ")	5 satisfactory)
		2 unsatisfactory)

<u>Holt</u>		
5 samples taken.	3 T.T.	
	2 Non-designated.	All Satisfactory.
<u>Pamphill</u>		
9 samples taken	9 pasteurised	8 satisfactory
		1 unsatisfactory
<u>Pentridge</u>		
5 samples taken	2 non designated	Both unsatisfactory
	3 T.T.	Satisfactory.
<u>Shapwick</u>		
1 sample taken	1 non designated	Satisfactory
<u>Sixpenny Handley</u>		
6 samples taken	1 T.T.	
	4 non designated	
	1 pasteurised.	All satisfactory
<u>Sturminster Marshall and Bailey Gate</u>		
105 samples taken	96 pasteurised	
	5 non designated	
	4 T.T.	All satisfactory
<u>Verwood</u>		
15 samples taken	15 pasteurised.	All satisfactory
<u>West Parley</u>		
22 samples taken	6 pasteurised	All satisfactory
	16 non designated	14 satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory
<u>Witchampton</u>		
4 samples taken.	4 non designated	3 satisfactory, one unsatisfactory
<u>Woodcutts</u>		
3 samples taken	2 pasteurised	
	1 non designated.	All satisfactory

One series of unsatisfactory samples was caused by inadequate sterilisation of the milk bottles and when this was corrected, all subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

METHYLENE BLUE TEST

This is used by the Public Health Laboratory for all Milk. It indicates the keeping quality by the time taken to reduce methylene blue under defined conditions.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises licensed has increased from 46 to 54. During the year the Sanitary Inspectors have endeavoured to obtain an average of six samples from each retailer and the results have been satisfactory. These results are tabulated below:-

	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.
<u>Alderholt</u>	7	2	-	1
<u>Cranborne</u>	6	-	-	-
<u>Corfe Mullen</u>	37	2	-	-
<u>Colehill</u>	8	4	-	-
<u>Gussage All Saints</u>	3	1	-	-
<u>Hampreston</u>	61	12	1	1
<u>Holt</u>	5	1	-	-
<u>Sturminster Marshall</u>	12	1	-	-
<u>Handley</u>	5	-	-	-
<u>Verwood</u>	23	8	3	2
<u>West Parley</u>	38	3	-	1
<u>Witchampton</u>	9	-	-	-
<u>Grichel</u>	3	-	-	-
<u>Hinton Martell</u>	5	1	-	-

Provisional Grades of Ice Cream

Provisional Grade

Time taken to reduce methylene blue

Grade 1

$4\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more

Grade 2

$2\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours

Grade 3

$\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours

Grade 4

0

NOTE:-

Judgment should be based on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent into Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

MEAT INSPECTION

No slaughterhouse has been licensed during the year. Progress in building the new Abattoir at Uddens has been satisfactory and it will be opened in the early spring of next year.

In February a meeting took place between representatives of this Council and of the Ministries of Food and Works to discuss observations made by the Council's officers as to the inadequate space provided for meat inspection and lack of accommodation for "detained" carcasses. Unfortunately building had begun, and no alteration could be made. It is hoped that the recommendations made will be helpful in future building, in order that carcasses may be inspected more easily.

Agreement was reached on the appointment of two additional Sanitary Inspectors for meat inspection duties at the Abattoir. It was considered by the Ministry of Food that in the initial stages two inspectors should be able to deal with the numbers of animals slaughtered.

It is essential that an adequate number of inspectors be available for examination of carcasses and that shortage of staff does not lead to the responsibility being left to the slaughtermen.

The following food was condemned during the year, and condemnation certificates issued in respect of the following:-

Home Killed

145 lbs beef.

Ox head (45 lbs)

Imported

42 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs lambs liver. 12 lbs ox liver. 164 lbs beef. 21 lbs pork.

Miscellaneous

26 Tins condensed Milk. 5, 4 lb. tins Cooked Pork. 14 lb Tin Gammon,
7 lbs Smoked Cod fillets. 15 lb Minced Beef and Sausage. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Cheese. 12 tins Miscellaneous Goods.

FOOD AND CATERING PREMISES

All these premises have been visited during the year and supplied with a copy of the Council's Byelaws on Food Handling, and also notices requesting customers to leave their dogs outside food shops.

Number of food premises in area.....	109
Number of butchers.....	12
Number of fishmongers.....	5
Number of gracers.....	69
Number of greengrocers.....	30
Number of confectioners.....	74
Number of restaurants.....	12
Number of bakers.....	14

Towards the end of the year the "Food and Drugs Amendment" Bill was published, which gives powers to the Ministries of Food and Health to make regulations on many aspects of the production, sale, handling and distribution of food. If these regulations are made, considerable additional work will fall upon the Council's Public Health Staff.

Number of Food Premises registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act:-

Grocers.....	36
Restaurants.....	12
Confectioners.....	3
Greengrocers.....	1
Milk retailers.....	1
Miscellaneous.....	1
Dairies registered.....	12

Inspections of Registered Food Premises

When necessary the occupiers have been advised the measures which are necessary to improve the standard of hygiene in their premises. An encouraging feature has been the increase in the provision of covered cabinets or receptacles for cakes and other unwrapped foodstuffs.

SECTION G
PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

Scarlet fever.....	8
Whooping Cough.....	118
Measles.....	445
Acute Pneumonia.....	28
Erysipelas.....	3
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2
Clinical Malaria.....	1
Dysentery.....	11
Poliomyelitis.....	25

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of December, 1953, the following cases were registered:-

Pulmonary.....	93.	Non Pulmonary.....	23.	Total...	116
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During the year 8 new pulmonary cases and 5 new non pulmonary cases have been notified.
10 pulmonary cases and one non pulmonary case have been transferred to the district.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year

A small epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred in the villages of Horton, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St. Michael and Cashmoor.
12 persons had some paresis or paralysis, three were non paralytic.
There were no deaths.
8 persons were over 20 years of age and 4 were children under school age.

There appeared to be several possible sources of infection. One case occurred where the patient arrived ill into the village unknowingly suffering from the early stages of poliomyelitis. Another case occurred after a stay outside the area in a house where a member had had poliomyelitis sometime previously and a second member had a short illness later which may have been a very mild infection. A third unknown source may have originated in one of the villages.

Many of the patients had been in contact with one another during the incubation period.

Water and milk supplies were very varied and the milk supplied to the villages during the epidemic was pasteurised.

9 patients used water closets and six pail closets.

It would appear the infection was carried by personal contact either by droplet infection (i.e. nose and mouth) or by handling food contaminated by persons incubating the disease or unknown carriers of infection. The main source of infection of poliomyelitis is the human bowel where the virus multiplies, being present from several days before the onset of illness, to several weeks after the acute infection has subsided.

The contacts who had attended school remained at home for a period of three weeks after the infected patient had been admitted to hospital. It is interesting to note the children came from several schools and infection did not spread to other villages.

Three cases in close contact with one another occurred in a nearby village, the probable source of infection was not a local one and these persons had not been in the affected villages.

A few other persons living within ten miles of the village were affected. As far as is known only two had been in contact with the Gussage villages.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN AREA

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Scarlet fever</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Acute Poliomyelitis.</u>		<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Acute Pneumonia.</u>
			<u>P</u>	<u>NP</u>		
UNDER ONE		2	<u>1</u>		9	
- 2	1	18	1		64	2
- 4		27	1	2	98	
- 9	5	62		4	228	11
0-14	2	4		3	34	3
5-24		1	1	1	5	13
5 and over		4	6	5	7	9

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Dysentery</u>	<u>Erysipelas</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Clinical Malaria</u>
UNDER ONE				
- 2				
- 4				
- 9				
0-14	4			
5-24	6		2	
5 and over	1	3		1

